provisions of Acts/Rules.

Electric Trolley Buses project in Delhi

590. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Electric Trolley Buses are proposed to be imported from Russia for DTC in the Capital;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) whether routes have been identified for the purpose; and

(d) by when the proposed project would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In about one to three years.

Private participation for urban infrastructure development

591. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought wider private participation to meet Rs. 17,000 crore fund shortage for urban infrastructure development in the country;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has stated that Government, States and local bodies have been able to provide only Rs. 5,000 crore for developing urban infrastructure facilities; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to meet the shortage of fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) the issue of Public-Private Partnership for urban infrastructure development was discussed at the Conference of Ministers of Urban Development, Local Self Government & Housing of States/Union Territories held at New Delhi on 12.9.2002.

As per the India Infrastructure Report brought out and published in 1996 by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi, the investment required for urban infrastructure (water supply, sanitation and roads) is Rs. 28,036 crores per year on an average during 1996-2006. It assessed availability of funds in 1995 as approximately Rs. 5,000 crores (for water supply & sanitation only).

In order to bridge the resource gap the Government has initiated reform measures in the development of urban infrastructure. Three new tools, namely, Urban Reforms Incentive Fund, City Challenge Fund and State Pooled Finance Development Fund have been proposed in the Finance Minister's budget speech of 2002-03 in order to make cities creditworthy for accessing capital market and also ensuring private sector participation.

Investments by HUDCO

592. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Economic Times, dated 10th October, 2002 regarding investments being made by Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) in companies with doubtful ability to repay; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected.